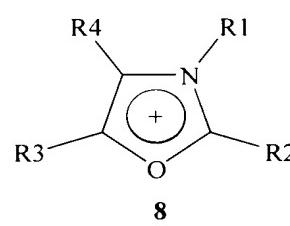
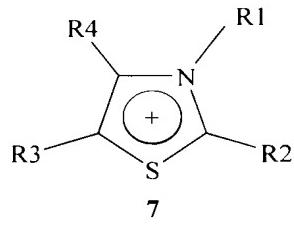
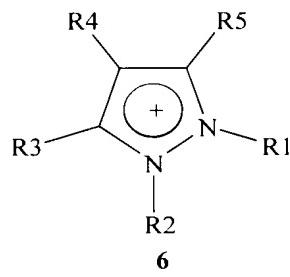
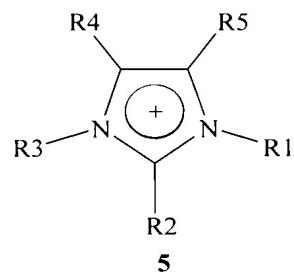
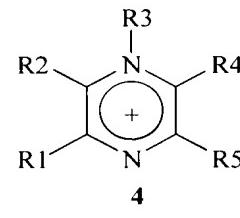
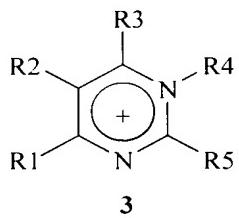
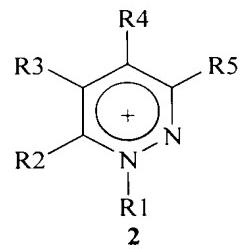
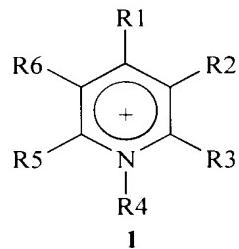
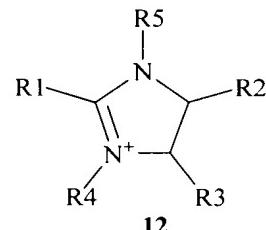
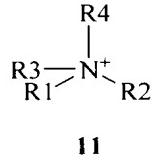
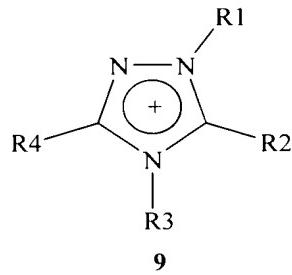


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A polymer composition, which comprises a polymer component comprising at least one at least semicrystalline polymer having no ionic groups, and 0.1 to 30% by weight of at least one ionic liquid, as plasticizer, wherein the semicrystalline polymer is a thermoplastically processable polymer selected from the group consisting of (co)polyamides, (co)polyesters, polyurethanes, polyphenylene ethers, polyolefins, (co)polyetheramides, polyaramides, polyether(ether)ketones, and polyetheresteramides, and the ionic liquid is a salt having a cation of the following structures:





,

where R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, and R6 are identical or different, and are hydrogen, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms and having interruption by one or more heteroatoms (oxygen, NH, NCH₃), or are a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms and having interruption by one or more functionalities, selected from the group -O-C(O)-, -(O)C-O-, NH-C(O)-, -(O)C-NH, -(CH₃)N-C(O)-, -(O)C-N(CH₃)-, -S(O)₂-O-, -O-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-NH-, -NH-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(CH₃)-, -N(CH₃)-S(O)₂-, or are a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, terminally functionalized by -OH, -NH₂, or -N(H)CH₃, or are a polyether of formula -(R⁷-O)_n-R⁸, having block or random structure, where R⁷ is a linear or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, n = from 1 to 30, and R⁸ is hydrogen, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms, or a -C(O)-R⁹ radical, where R⁹ is a

linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms; and having an anion selected from the group consisting of halide, phosphate, halophosphates, alkylated phosphates, nitrate, sulfate, hydrogensulfate, alkyl sulfates, aryl sulfates, perfluorinated alkyl sulfates, perfluorinated aryl sulfates, sulfonate, alkylsulfonates, arylsulfonates, perfluorinated alkyl- and arylsulfonates, perchlorate, tetrachloroaluminate, tetrafluoroborate, alkylated borates, tosylate, saccharinate, alkyl carboxylates, and bis(perfluoroalkylsulfonyl)amide anions.

Claim 2 (Original): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises 0.5 to 25% by weight of ionic liquid.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least semicrystalline polymer comprises at least one crosslinked, or at least one crosslinkable, polymer selected from the group consisting of (co)polyamides, (co)polyesters, polyurethanes, and polyphenylene ethers.

Claim 5 (Original): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer is linear or branched.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises at least one mixture of said at least semicrystalline polymer.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Original): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid contains a halogen-free anion, selected from the group consisting of phosphate, alkyl phosphates, nitrate, sulfate, alkyl sulfates, aryl sulfates, sulfonate, alkylsulfonates, arylsulfonates, alkyl borates, tosylate, saccharinate, and alkyl carboxylates.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid of the polymer composition comprises more than one anion.

Claim 10 (Original): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, which has microbicidal properties.

Claim 11 (Original): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, which has antistatic properties.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, which has a glass transition temperature, measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), which is lower by up to 18K, than that of the polymer component.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended): A process for preparing [[a]] the polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, which comprises at least one polymer having no ionic groups, at least one compound with plasticizing properties, and 0.1 to 30% by weight of ionic liquid, as plasticizer,

said process comprising

first bringing [[an]] said ionic liquid into contact with [[a]] said polymeric component of the polymer composition, and then dispersing the ionic liquid in the polymer composition.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the dispersion of the ionic liquid in the polymer composition takes place by means of a mixing process.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ionic liquid is brought into contact with, and thoroughly mixed with, a molten phase of the polymeric component.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the mixing of the components of the polymer composition is carried out in a single- or twin-screw kneader, the polymeric component being molten.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ionic liquid is brought into contact with a solid phase of the polymeric component, and thoroughly mixed after melting.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the dispersion of the ionic liquid in the polymer composition takes place by means of diffusion.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the preparation takes place by means of impregnation of polymer powders by an ionic liquid.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one polymer and/or one ionic liquid is dissolved in a solvent.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the solvent is removed by a thermal separation process from a precursor of the polymer composition.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the solvent is removed from a precursor of the polymer composition by precipitation of the polymer composition.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A process for preparing a hot-melt adhesive, an adhesion promoter, a binder, a filler material, a packaging material, a compatibilizer for preparing polymer blends, an agent modifying viscosity and/or solubility in polymer mixtures or polymer compositions, an unsupported film, a supported film, a coating, a membrane, or a molding, where shaping takes place by means of injection molding, extrusion, or blow molding,

said process comprising contacting the polymer composition of claim 1 with one or more additives.

Claims 25-27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a homopolyamide.

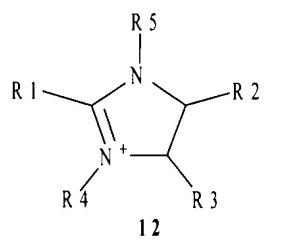
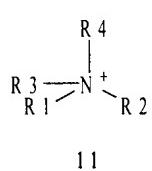
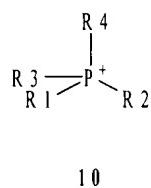
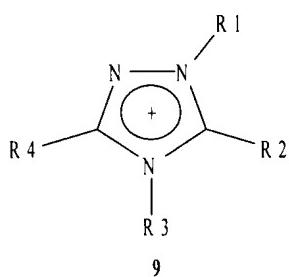
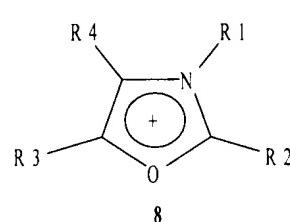
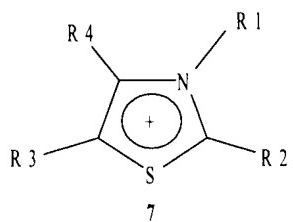
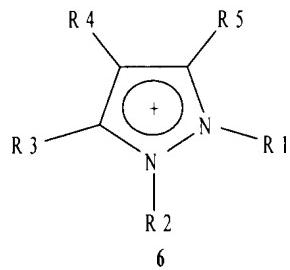
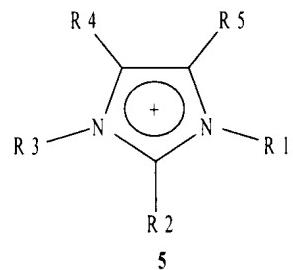
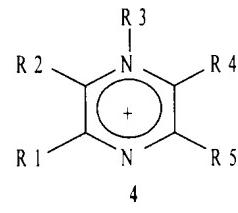
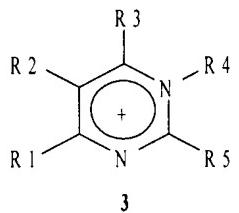
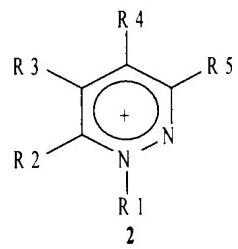
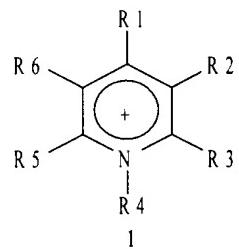
Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises an aromatic polyamide.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises an aliphatic polyamide and/or copolyamide.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a homo- and/or copolyester.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The polymer composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a copolyester produced from a hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or from a lactone.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A polymer composition, which comprises a polymer component comprising at least one at least semicrystalline polymer having no ionic groups, and 0.1 to 30% by weight of at least one ionic liquid, as plasticizer, wherein the semicrystalline polymer is a thermoplastically processable polymer selected from the group consisting of (co)polyamides, (co)polyesters, polyurethanes, polyphenylene ethers, polyolefins, (co)polyetheramides, polyaramides, and polyetheresteramides, and the ionic liquid is a salt having a cation of the following structures:



,

where R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, and R6 are identical or different, and are hydrogen, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms and having interruption by one or more heteroatoms (oxygen, NH, NCH₃), or are a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms and having interruption by one or more functionalities, selected from the group -O-C(O)-, -(O)C-O-, NH-C(O)-, -(O)C-NH, -(CH₃)N-C(O)-, -(O)C-N(CH₃)-, -S(O)₂-O-, -O-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-NH-, -NH-S(O)₂-, -S(O)₂-N(CH₃)-, -N(CH₃)-S(O)₂-, or are a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, terminally functionalized by -OH, -NH₂, or -N(H)CH₃, or are a polyether of formula -(R⁷-O)_n-R⁸, having block or random structure, where R⁷ is a linear or branched hydrocarbon radical having from 2 to 4 carbon atoms, n = from 1 to 30, and R⁸ is hydrogen, a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms, or a -C(O)-R⁹ radical, where R⁹ is a linear or branched aliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon radical having from 5 to 30 carbon atoms, an aromatic hydrocarbon radical having from 6 to 30 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl radical having from 7 to 40 carbon atoms; and having an anion selected from the group consisting of halide, phosphate, halophosphates, alkylated phosphates, nitrate, sulfate, hydrogensulfate, alkyl sulfates, aryl sulfates, perfluorinated alkyl sulfates, perfluorinated aryl sulfates, sulfonate, alkylsulfonates, arylsulfonates, perfluorinated alkyl- and arylsulfonates, perchlorate,

Application No. 10/519,402
Reply to Final Office Action of March 18, 2009

tetrachloroaluminate, tetrafluoroborate, alkylated borates, tosylate, saccharinate, alkyl carboxylates, and bis(perfluoroalkylsulfonyl)amide anions.